Appl. No. 10/069,625

Amdt. dated September 24, 2003]

Reply to Office Action of June 24, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 1217-012195

**REMARKS** 

Claims 1-3 and 5-45 are currently pending in this application. Applicants have

amended the specification to correct minor typographical and translational errors. No new matter

has been added by way of the amendments. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended

to comply with the Patent Office Rules that the abstract be limited to a single paragraph and no

more than 150 words. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled

claim 4. Claims 1-3, 12-14, 16, 18, 19-21, 30-32, 34, 39-41, and 45 are amended, removing

some references to "white-colored" coating layers. Claims 8, 16, 26, 32, and 42-45 have been

amended to more particularly describe the invention.

37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) Rejections

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 16, 32, 35, and 42-45 under

37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject

matter of a previous claim. Claim 3 is further limited by the thickness. Claim 16 is further

limited by the color tone. Additionally, claims 3, 16, 32, 35, and 42-45 were amended in order

to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Therefore the objection should be

withdrawn as claims 3, 16, 32, 35, and 42-45 are now in form for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as

being indefinite. Claims 1-3, 12-14, 16, 18, 19-21, 30-32, 34, 39-41, and 45 were amended to

remove the "white-colored" phrase. Claim 8 was amended to more clearly define the underlying

plating layer. Claim 25 is now consistent with claim 8. Claims 1 and 12 were amended to be

more consistent and removed the doubt with respect to the antecedent basis issue expressed by

the Examiner. Claim 16 was amended to correct an antecedent basis issue. Claims 32 and 45

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were amended to correct the listed issues regarding antecedent basis and to more particularly

define the invention. Claims 42-44 were amended to clarify and more particularly define the

invention. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should be withdrawn as claims 1-45

are now in form for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 12, and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,778, 238 to Tyler (hereinafter "Tyler").

Claim 1 was amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 4. Claim 1 now includes

the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner referring to claim 4 including the

limitation of the claims upon which it depends. Therefore, the Rejection under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn and claims 1, 3, 5, 12, and 14-18 are in form for

allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections

and allowance of claims 1-3 and 4-45 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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